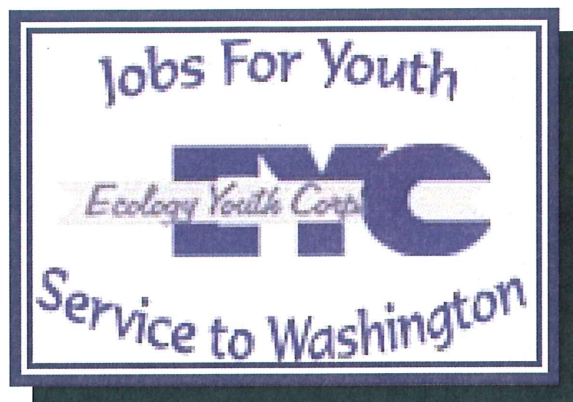




Sample of 2006 youth crews clockwise from upper left: North King recycling, East King recycling, Whatcom posing, Skagit at orientation day, Snohomish posing, and South King at Gasworks Park

Ecology **Y**outh **C**orps

2006 Annual Report – Northwest Regional Office



Section 1. Executive Summary & Overview

2006 was a successful year for the Ecology Youth Corps (EYC) in the Northwest Regional Office (NWRO). Outputs for the year are found in Table 1-1; details of outputs by season and county can be found in Sections 2 and 3. Recycling totals by commodity are in Table 1-2.

**Table 1-1
NWRO EYC Outputs 2006**

HOURS WORKED	21,894
MILES CLEANED	1,351.2
POUNDS COLLECTED	361,590

**Table 1-2
NWRO Recycling
Outputs by Commodity**

ALUMINUM	4,322
SCRAP METAL	27,929
GLASS	7,285
PLASTIC	2,387
MISCELLANEOUS	1,738
TOTAL	43,661

Recycled items comprised 12.1% of all material collected. This is the most poundage recycled as well as the highest percent of material recycled in the past five years.

Several crews did some acreage and illegal dump cleanup of public lands; the majority of this effort occurred in November due to heavy rain and snow that made state road work unproductive, unsafe and practicably impossible in the case of snow. This year crews cleaned 76.7 acres and 8 illegal dumps, collecting 7,845 pounds (a poundage of increase of 117% from 2005); although illegal dump cleanup still only represented 2% of overall effort.

Comparing 2006 outputs to 2005 outputs, operational efficiencies (pounds and miles relative to hours worked) were roughly equivalent. Hours worked decreased by 5.5%, miles cleaned decreased by 10.9% while total pounds collected increased by 2.9%. See Table 1-3 for a comparison of 2006 with previous years.

Hours worked were the lowest since 2002 largely due to recruitment and retention difficulties of median crew members in King County in the spring and fall and termination of the median crew summer supervisor which resulted in no summer median crew for two weeks. These two factors correspondingly impacted miles cleaned and pounds collected.

Table 1-3
2006 Output Compared to 2002 through 2005

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
HOURS WORKED	20,891	24,627	24,211	23,166	21,894
MILES CLEANED	761.2	943.9	945.5	1,515.7	1,351.2
POUNDS COLLECTED	233,686	307,688	311,925	352,515	361,590

The greatest operational success of 2006 was ***NO injuries or incidents that required medical attention beyond on-sight first aid.*** The only Labor & Industries (L&I) claim was challenged as fraudulent by Ecology and ultimately denied by L&I. Great job!!

There were two vehicle accidents/incidents this year – one of which EYC was at fault. The at-fault incident was a bump involving one other car, resulting in no damage; a claim was never filed by the other driver nor was there damage to the EYC van. The accident was when an EYC van was side swiped by a gravel truck and had it's passenger side-view mirror taken off. The truck did not stop. However, the crew was able to get the license plate number and Ecology was eventually reimbursed for the cost of the mirror replacement. Three vans were vandalized during non-work hours, hopefully an aberration and not a trend.

There were 119 persons employed by the NWRO EYC this year - 95 youth crew members, 10 median crew members, and 14 supervisors. There were seven returning supervisors and seven new ones. As previously noted one supervisor was terminated after two weeks due to violations of program policies and unsafe operations and a four-year supervisor resigned in spring and needed to be replaced. Thirteen of 18 invited youth returned for a second summer of employment. Details of youth hiring are found in Section 2.2.

Supervisors and youth crew members both had very favorable reviews of the EYC program on end-of-session surveys. One example -over 80% of youth crew members would definitely recommend the job to a friend, and the remaining 20% maybe would, several of the "maybes" noting that they qualified their recommendation owing to their impression of the friend (e.g. too lazy) rather than the job itself.

Youth crew orientation day will be substantially altered in 2007 given feedback by many supervisors that they would like more road safety and preparation emphasis.

Section 2. Operations & Outputs

Ecology Youth Corps activities are divided into three sessions – spring, summer, and fall. This year, spring session was from March 16 through June 15, with two median crews operating, one based in King County and the other in Whatcom County. Summer session was from June 26 to August 18. During summer there were 16 four-week youth crews and one eight-week median crew. In the fall, lasting from August 21 through November 30, the median crews were once again based out of King and Whatcom counties.

Section 2.1 – Spring Session

The *spring Whatcom County median* crew was headed by Erik Moore, in his fifth year with EYC. The crew cleaned portions of the following roads:

- Interstate 5
- State Routes 9, 20, 536, 542

Four-year veteran Dave Keeney supervised the *spring King County median* crew until mid-April when he resigned and was replaced by Matthew Lang – returning after a year's absence for a sixth year. The crew cleaned portions of the following roads:

- Interstate 5, Interstate 90, Interstate 405
- State Routes 18, 99, 167, 509, 516, 518, 520, 522, 599, 900

Table 2-1 shows outputs for the spring session of both crews.

**Table 2-1
NWRO Spring Outputs 2006**

HOURS WORKED	2,696
MILES CLEANED	275.6
POUNDS COLLECTED	70,455
POUNDS RECYCLED	9,583

Section 2.2 – Summer Session

This year 708 applications were received on time; 70% of applications arrived via online submission and 30% via hard copy. This is a big increase in percentage of online applications from the first year (2005) and likely owing to not sending schools multiple hard copies, rather they were sent instructions for applying online. 51% of applicants were male, 46% female, and 3% unknown. There were 496 online applications received and 212 applications received hard copy.

There were 95 youth crew positions available; 13 of the available positions were filled by returning youth from summer 2005 who had been invited back for 2006 based on excellent performance. Through a random drawing, 242 youth were selected for interviews to fill the remaining 82 vacancies. Tables 2-2 and 2-3 detail equal opportunity hiring statistics of the youth selected for hire.

**Table 2-2
Youth Hired by Gender**

	Number Hired	Percent of Total
MALE	43	45%
FEMALE	52	55%
TOTAL	95	100%

**Table 2-3
Youth Hired by Ethnicity**

	Number Hired	Percent of Total
CAUCASIAN	65	68%
MINORITY/OTHER	30	32%
TOTAL	95	100%

There were four experienced supervisors this summer and five new ones. In addition to the nine supervisors, Matthew Lang transitioned from median crew supervisor to be the new regional summer crew checker. Matthew dutifully visited each crew on a regular basis, providing technical expertise, substituting as needed and getting to thoroughly know the heavily traveled roads in the Northwest Region.

Eight youth crews and one median crew operated during the summer session. The summer outputs are found in Table 2-3. There was one youth crew each based out of Kitsap, Skagit, and Whatcom counties; 1.5 youth crews in Snohomish County, and the remaining 3.5 youth crews based in King County. The summer median crew also operated out of King County.

**Table 2-4
NWRO Summer Outputs 2006**

HOURS WORKED	16,645
MILES CLEANED	881.6
POUNDS COLLECTED	208,785
POUNDS RECYCLED	25,390

Erik Moore supervised the 12 youth hired in *Whatcom County*. The crew cleaned all of Interstate 5 shoulders and interchanges from Canada to the Skagit County line, parts of Interstate 5 in Skagit County as well as portions of SR, SR20, SR542 and SR548. They collected 25,785 pounds of material and cleaned 177 miles of road – the most miles cleaned by a summer youth crew in NWRO since at least 1991.

First-year supervisor Chelsea Simons supervised the *Skagit County* crew; ten youth were hired. The crew collected 13,350 pounds of material while cleaning 118.5 miles. The Skagit crew worked on shoulders and interchanges of Interstate 5 from the Whatcom County line, through Skagit, and eight miles into Snohomish County. The crew also cleaned portions of SR20 between Anacortes and Sedro Woolley and parts of SR9.

Stacy Lynn Lawler supervised the summer youth crew in *Snohomish County*. This was Stacy's second year with EYC. The 12 youth under her supervision cleaned 122 miles of road and removed 17,865 pounds of debris. They cleaned many sections of Interstate 5 north of Lynnwood, through Everett and up to Stanwood. They also cleaned several stretches of SR525 and SR526. Stacy was the recipient of the summer's most outstanding supervisor award.

The *East King County* crew was lead by first-year supervisor Alice Elizabeth Drury. Twelve youth were hired. Alice and crew spent the majority of their effort cleaning heavily trafficked stretches of shoulder and interchanges on Interstate 405, SR520 and SR522. They also cleaned some portions of Interstate 90 east of Bellevue. They removed 19,380 pounds of material while cleaning 91.9 miles. The East King crew had perfect attendance.

Van Helker was the *North King County* supervisor; this was his first year with EYC. Van supervised a diverse group of 12 youth – many residents of Snohomish County. Van and crew spent eight weeks in heavy traffic cleaning Interstate 5 and Interstate 405 shoulders and

interchanges from Interstate 5 in South Seattle north up to the Bothell area on Interstate 405. The North King crew picked up 32,415 pounds of material from 76.6 miles of road.

Naomi Yonyoff, new to EYC in 2006, was in charge of one of the *South King County* crews; Naomi was very adept at supervising the 13 spirited youth in her charge. Naomi and the South King youth cleaned SR167 from the Pierce County line through Kent as well as many sections of SR18 between Auburn and Covington. The crew cleaned 84 miles of road and collected 33,600 pounds of material.

The other *South King County* operated under the direction of Kellan Martz – a second year supervisor. Twelve youth were hired, though one youth quite after only three days. Kellan and his crewmembers cleaned Interstate 5 from Des Moines south to the Pierce County line. They also cleaned several stretches of Interstate 405 near Renton. This crew was our top pound producer, collecting 37,125 pounds of litter while cleaning 56 miles of road.

The final youth crew in the NWRO was Rick Haskin's *Kitsap County* crew. This was Rick's tenth year supervising our Kitsap County youth crew. Twelve youth were hired to work in Kitsap County. The crew picked up 14,100 pounds of material while cleaning 84 miles of road. They focused their efforts on SR3 between Poulsbo and Bremerton and SR16 between Gorst and Gig Harbor.

Mark Johnson supervised the *summer King County median* crew; he took over on July 17 after the original supervisor was terminated for cause. This crew focused on medians and interchanges of SR167 and Interstate 5 in the southern part of King County and Interstate 90 median in eastern King County. Their final outputs were 15,165 pounds collected and 51.8 miles cleaned. They also cleaned over 30 public access points.

Section 2.3 – Fall Session

Erik Moore switched from Whatcom Youth to supervise the *fall Whatcom County median* crew. The crew spent the majority of their effort on Interstate 5 median in Whatcom and Skagit counties. Additional cleaning occurred on SR9 and SR542.

With summer completed Matthew Lang resumed his median supervisory role, taking back the *fall King County median* crew. The crew cleaned portions of the following roads:

- Interstate 5, Interstate 90, Interstate 405
- State Routes 18, 99, 167, 509, 516, 518, 520, 522, 599, 900

**Table 2-5
NWRO Fall Outputs 2006**

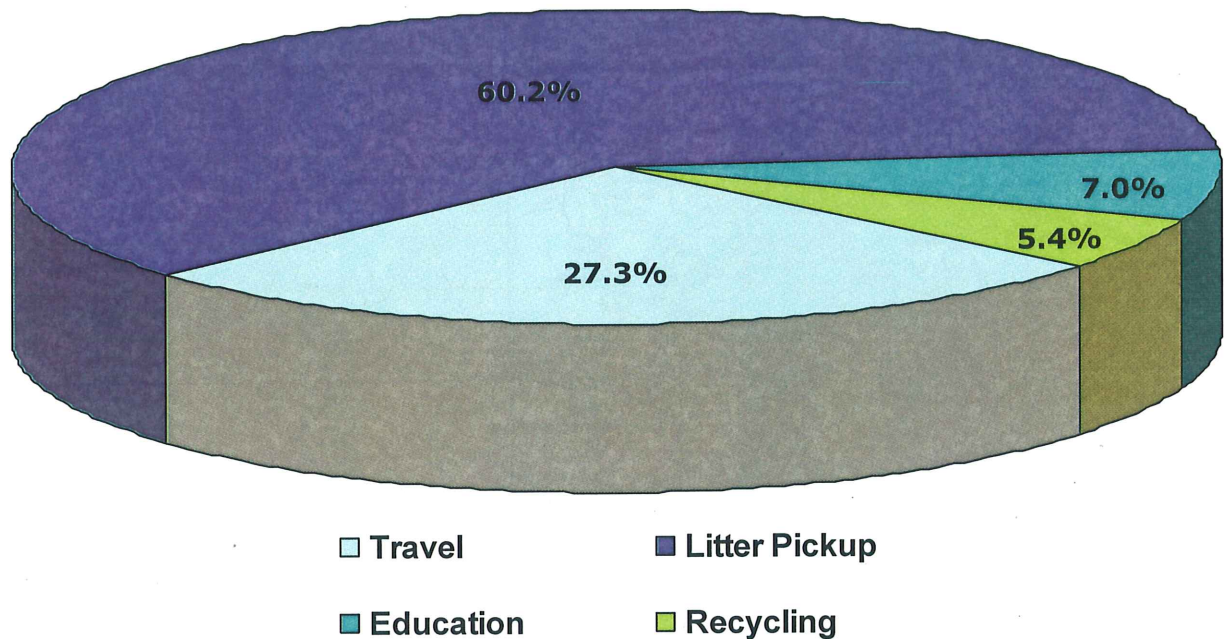
HOURS WORKED	2,553
MILES CLEANED	194.0
POUNDS COLLECTED	82,350
POUNDS RECYCLED	8,868

Fall median crew outputs were significantly reduced from previous years due to poor weather (rain and snow) for much of November that did not allow for cleanup on state roads. Pounds collected from state roads was 50% less than 2005, although overall pounds collected increased because of two large illegal dumps cleaned by the King County crew. Miles cleaned reduced by 52% from 2005.

Section 3 – Effort by Activity

EYC tracks crew time by four different activities – travel, cleanup, education and recycling. Chart 3-1 presents the results for 2006. Time spent on litter pickup and education slightly increased compared to 2005.

Chart 3-1
Percentage of Time Spent by Activity



Median crews spent 68.9% of time on litter pickup while youth crews spent 57.6% of time on litter pickup. Overall, percent of time on litter pickup slightly increased in 2006 – breaking the 60% plateau for the first time since EYC began tracking data this way in 2002. Youth crews also spend significantly more time on educational activities than their median crew counterparts – 8.7% for youth compared to 1.7% for median crews.

Section 4 – Areas Cleaned

Figures 4-1 and 4-2 on the following pages highlight the sections of state roads cleaned by Ecology Youth Corps crews in 2006. The **Yellow Highlights** indicate that *at least* one directional shoulder, an interchange or median was cleaned; however, in many cases both directions of shoulder, interchanges and the median were *all* cleaned.

Figure 4-1: Regional Map of Interstates and State Routes Cleaned by EYC Crews
(NWRO boundary denoted by gray outline)

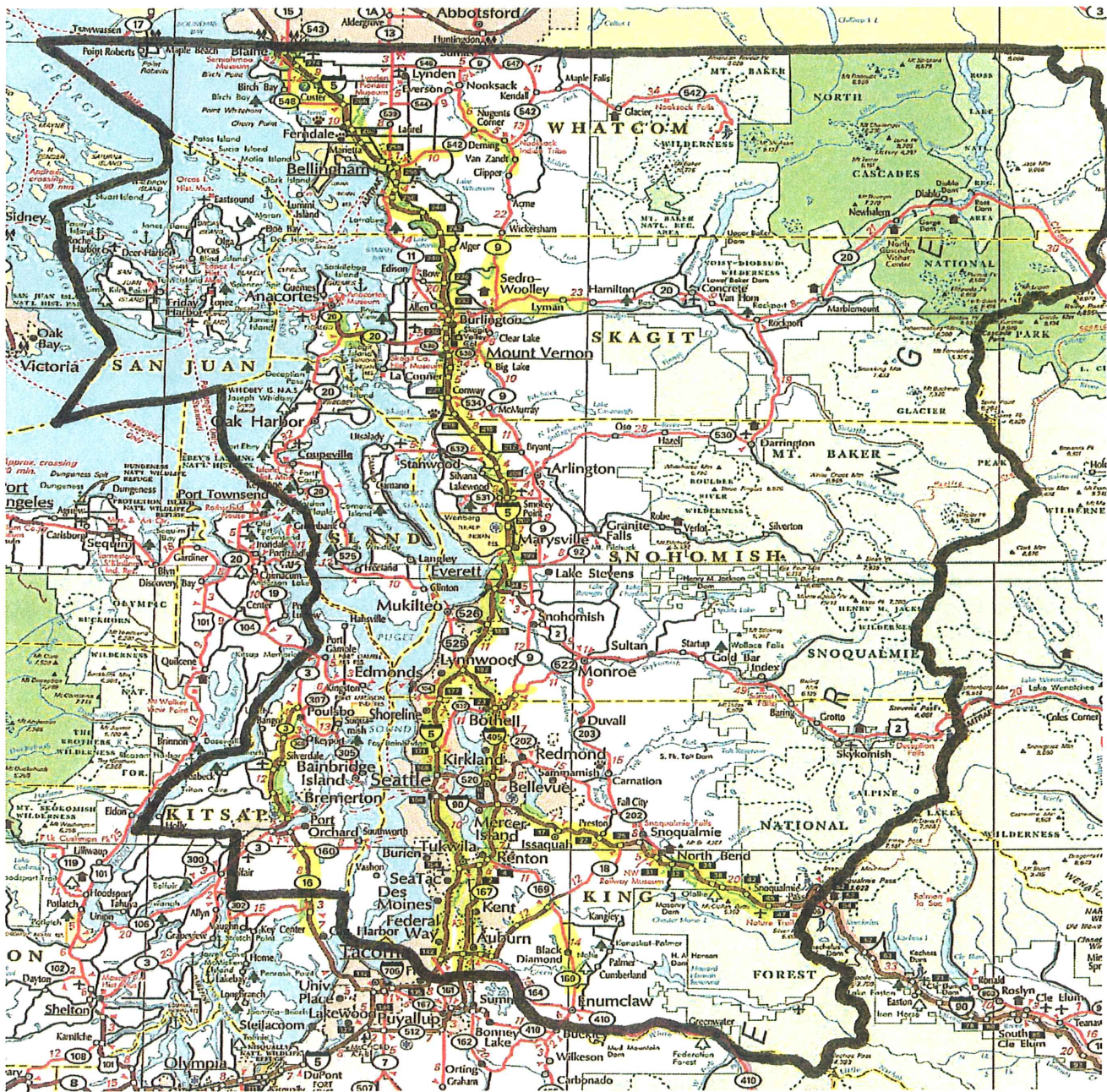
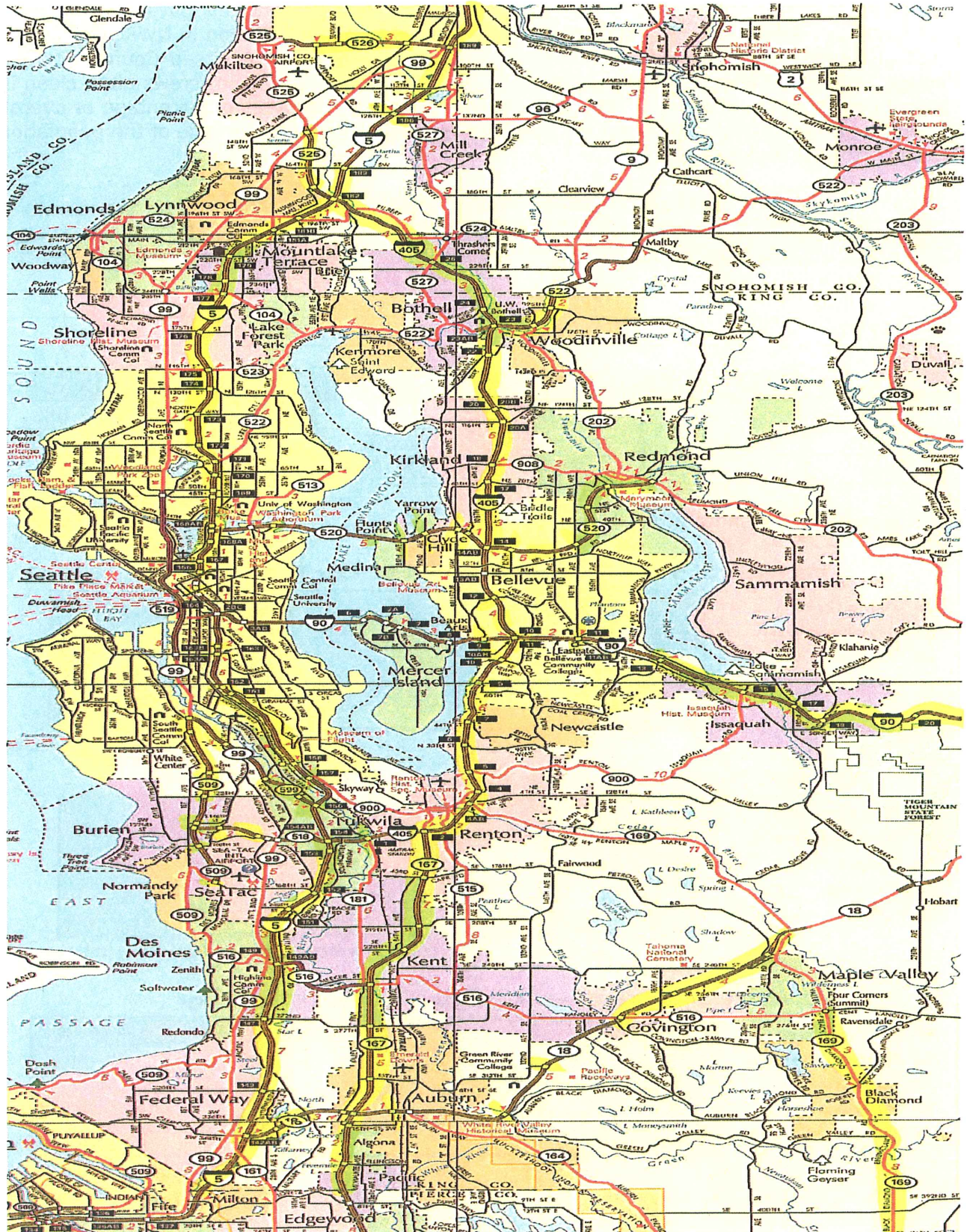


Figure 4-2
Puget Sound Detail Map of Interstates and State Routes Cleaned by EYC Crews



Section 5 – Cleaning Effort by County

The NWRO is comprised of seven counties, though EYC crews operate only out of five of those counties -King, Kitsap, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom. A small portion in NWRO work took place in Pierce County; in this section those outputs are included in Kitsap County's totals. Though assigned in title to specific counties, (e.g. North King or Whatcom) crews often clean in other jurisdictional boundaries. Table 5-1 shows outputs by county as a percentage of overall EYC work in the Northwest Region. For perspective each county's percentage of the population of the northwest region is included.

Table 5-1: Percentage of Outputs by County

(Parentheses is respective county's population as a percentage of the NWRO total population)

KING (58.8%)		KITSAP (7.9%)	
Hours	46.4%	Hours	7.5%
Pounds	57.4%	Pounds	3.9%
Miles	32.1%	Miles	6.4%

SKAGIT (3.6%)		SNOHOMISH (21.2%)		WHATCOM (5.6%)	
Hours	10.3%	Hours	18.2%	Hours	17.6%
Pounds	7.0%	Pounds	12.8%	Pounds	18.9%
Miles	13.3%	Miles	17.2%	Miles	31.1%

The following charts show output by county.

Chart 3.1 - Hours Worked by County

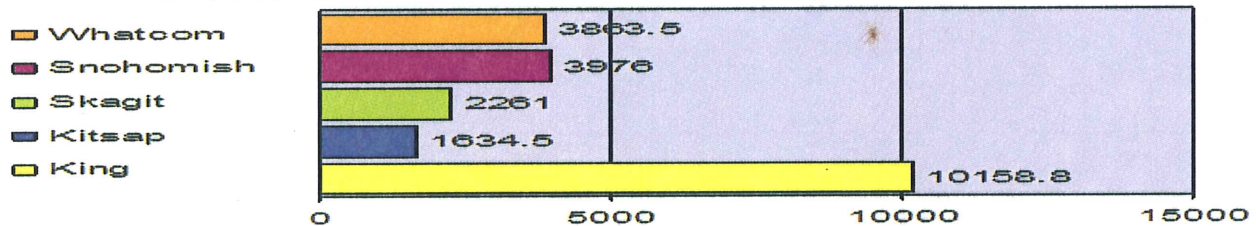


Chart 3.2 - Pounds Collected by County

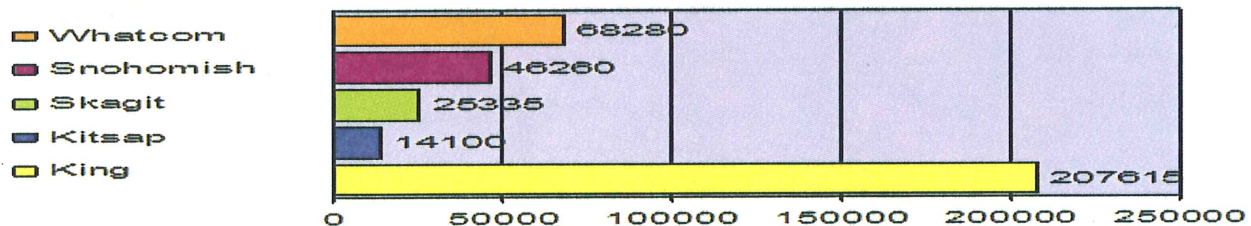


Chart 3.3 - Miles Cleaned by County

